



Big Era Eight

**A Half Century of Crisis
1900 - 1950**



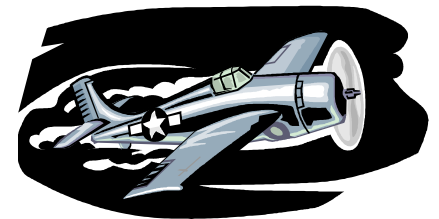
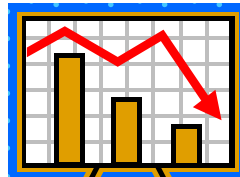
**Why is
Big Era Eight
about crisis?**

**Three major events shook up the
modern world system that had
been created during Big Era
Seven.**



World War I

Depression



World War II

What could the crises of Big Era Eight upset?



**They could upset
the balance of
political and economic
forces in the
modern world.**



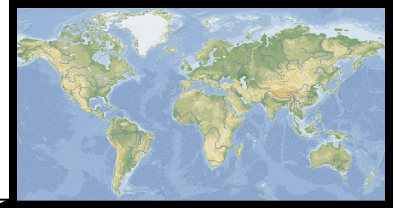
Before we go any further, how was the world tied together at the start of the 20th century?

- **Communications networks made possible by the telegraph, telephone, and undersea cable.**
- **Transportation networks made possible by the railway, steamship, and (soon to come) airplane.**
- **Trade and financial networks.**
- **Diplomatic relations and alliances.**
- **Relations between imperial powers and the colonial peoples they ruled.**



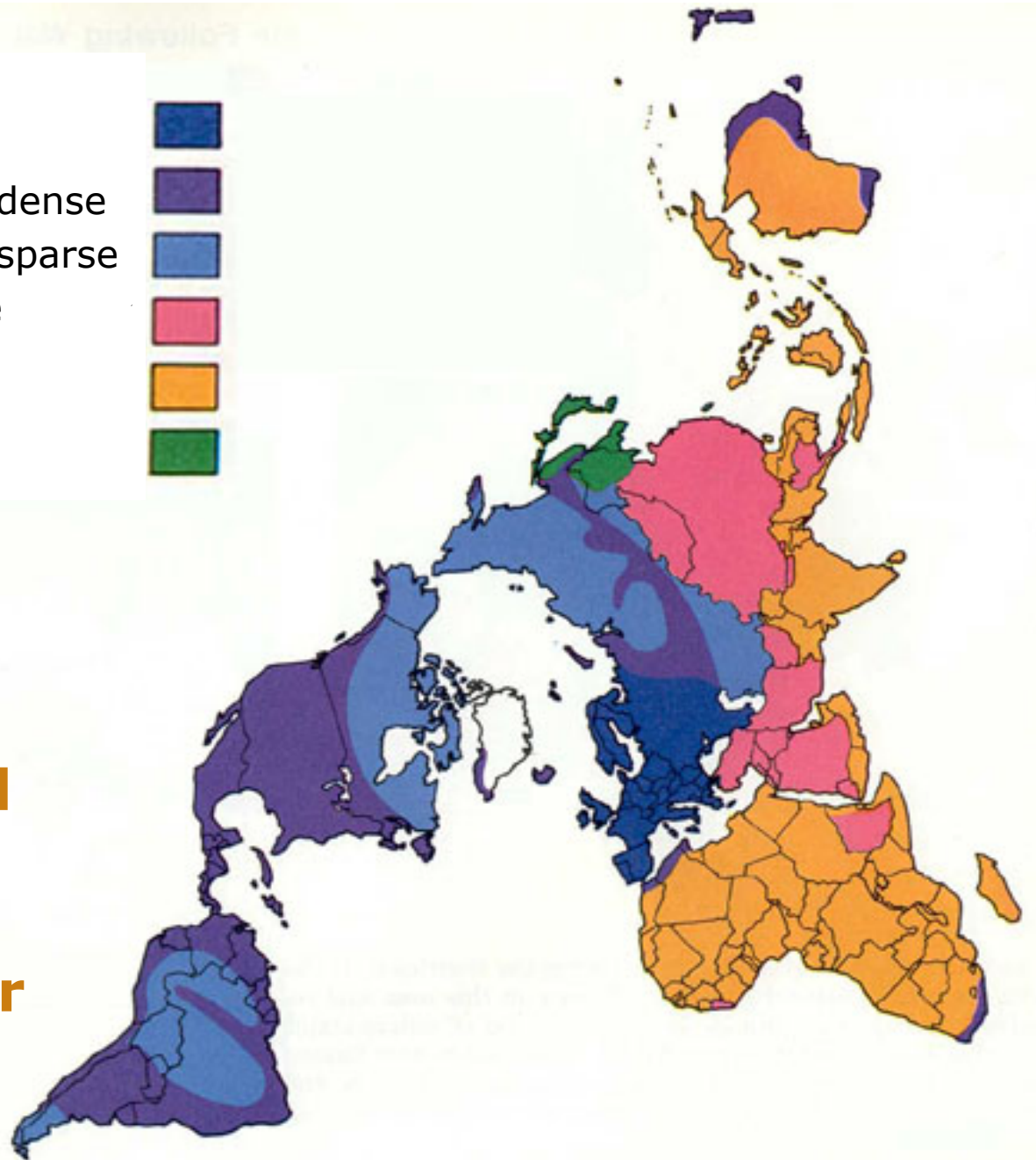
Did an equal balance of political and military power exist among world regions in Big Era Eight?

**Oh, no.
I like to throw my weight around.**



At the start, European countries dominated Big Era Eight. By the end... well, we'll talk about that towards the end. For now, let's pick up where Big Era Seven left off.

Europe
European descent-dense
European descent-sparse
European influence
European colonies
Japanese Empire



You already know that Europeans got the upper hand in the modern world system during the later part of Big Era Seven.



Why did Europeans have so much power in the modern world system?

- In Big Era Seven, western European countries achieved greater economic power than most other countries as a result of industrialization.
- Many European governments and businesses wanted more overseas markets and raw materials.
- Western European military forces had big world leads in military technology.



Also . . .



The last quarter of the 19th century saw great droughts and famines in many parts of the world.

These disasters were connected to El Niño climatic conditions.

These disasters caused economic, social, and political disruption in African and Asian societies just when European power was strongest.



Did Europeans get only benefits from the modern world system?

No.

Europe's leaders competed with each other to dominate the modern world. Their competition helped cause World War I, the first crisis of Big Era Eight.

Also, many workers in Europe felt that their political and business leaders treated them poorly.



German cartoon depicts the threat of British imperial expansion in the 19th century.



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No. Americans expanded their opportunities at home and abroad.

No. The Japanese government seized an empire in East Asia

Did other industrial countries accept Europe having exclusive dominance?



Some collaborated with the European takeover...



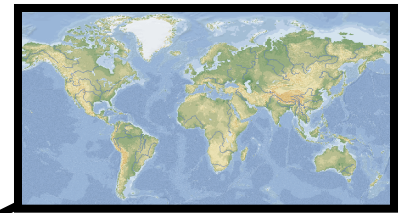
What did peoples in Asia and Africa do when European powers invaded their lands or put economic pressure on them?



Many resisted, though usually failed to defeat European armies. The Ethiopians repelled the Italians in 1896, but this was an exception. ➡



**So, to review:
European countries dominated
a booming world economy at
the start of Big Era Eight. But
many people in other places
(and some in Europe) did not
like this system.**



**This is getting
old.**



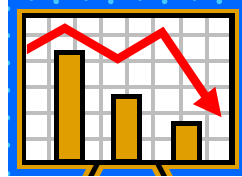


**So how did the
crises of Big Era
Eight change things?**

1. Two wars and a worldwide economic collapse weakened European dominance.



World War I



Depression

World War II



2. But some countries saw these crises as opportunities to gain new influence or take over parts of the system.

World War I was fought in several parts of the world, though the longest and biggest battles took place in Europe. The war killed both soldiers and civilians, and it devastated both towns and countryside.

20,000,000 people died in connection with the war, far more than in any earlier war in world history.



Regions where fighting took place in World War I

- 1 Western European Front
- 2 Eastern European Front
- 3 Italian Front
- 4 Balkan Front
- 5 Palestine/Syria
- 6 Iraq
- 7 Arabia
- 8 German Togoland
- 9 German Camaroons
- 10 German East Africa
- 11 German Southwest Africa
- 12 German Pacific Islands





How did World War I weaken Europe's global dominance?

**It devastated Europe
both physically and
psychologically.**

**Europeans saw that
industrialization made
warfare more brutal,
deadly, and
destructive.**

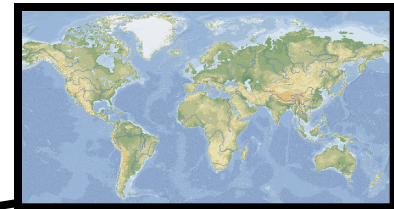
**Many felt disillusioned
and lost their belief in
progress.**





If World War I weakened European power, how did it affect everyone else?

Hey! How'd I get off the ground?



It's about time some more of us made our weight felt.



The war caused death and destruction in the Middle East and Africa—wherever fighting took place.

It caused economic and social stress in all the European colonial empires.



Societies all over the world contributed resources or soldiers to the war effort, gaining experience and a firmer voice on the global stage.



**Colonial soldiers became more confident
in their own abilities and less awed
by their foreign rulers.**



**Indian soldiers in
Belgium**



As a result, some local leaders in colonies began to call for self-determination or independence.



South Africa

India



Meanwhile, upheaval in Europe gave other industrial countries opportunities to grow.



**Ford factory,
Detroit, Michigan**



Women everywhere took on new responsibilities outside the home as part of the Total War effort.

France



Russia



USA



In 1917, the Bolshevik Party led a successful Communist revolution in Russia.

The Bolsheviks overthrew the monarchy of the Tsar, which had been in power for centuries.

Russia had been an ally of Britain, France, and the US. But Lenin, the Bolshevik leader, took Russia out of World War I.

Tsar Nicholas II was executed in 1918



After World War I, the modern world became more closely tied together than ever before.



Did the world change in important ways?

Yes. Along with global trade and finance, sounds from radios and images from movies and magazines helped knit a modern global culture.

The 1920s saw silent film, tango, flappers, and jazz gain global popularity.

Paris



USA



Argentina



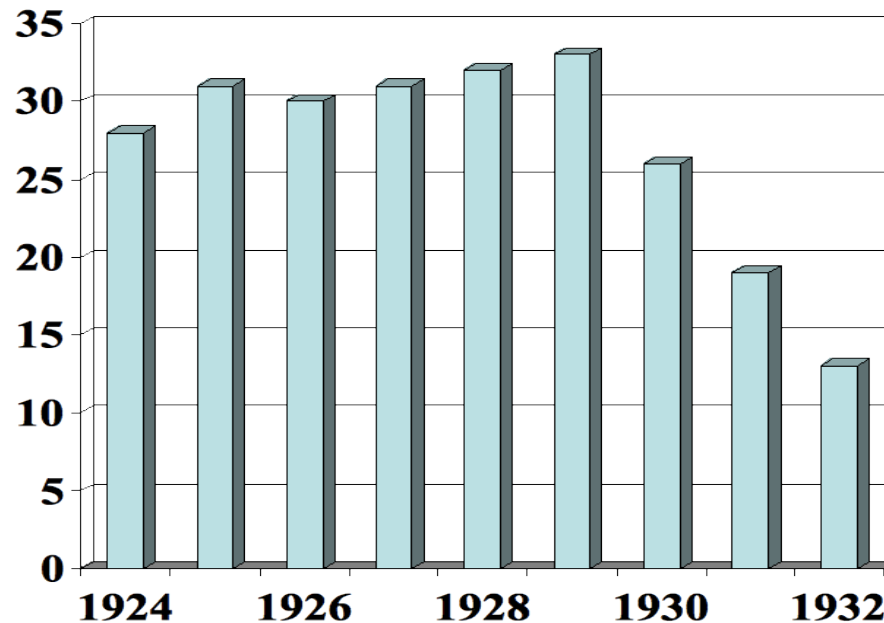
Japan

India



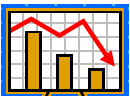


Then, the Great Depression happened.



**Value of
Global
Exports in
Billions of
Dollars**

The Depression put another dent in the sense of progress and possibility that many people had felt. The global economy spread misery as well as wealth and prosperity.



Unemployment and hunger rippled through many societies, raising doubts about the system.

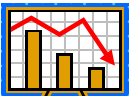
Brazil



USA



France





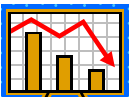
Did the Depression in the modern world system affect everyone the same way?



Sit-down strikers, 1937, USA.

No, some industries in the West kept going.

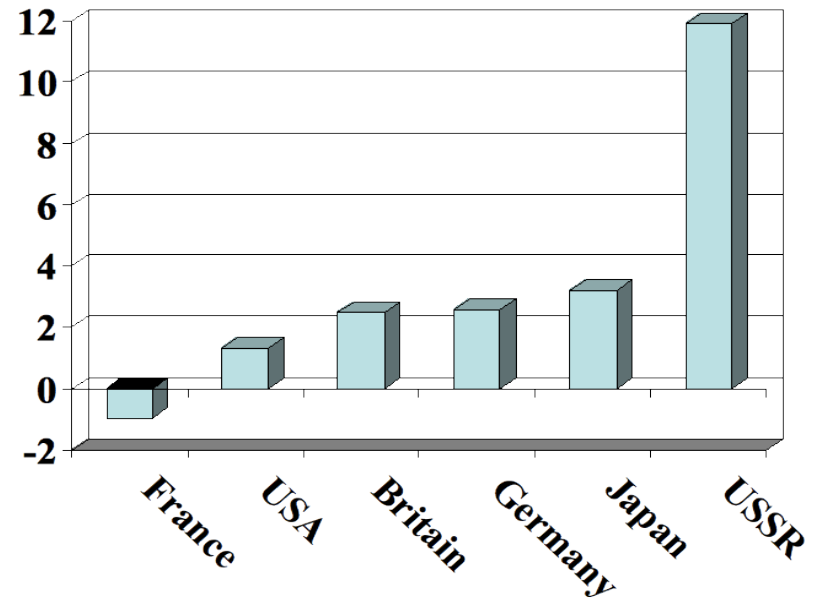
And some workers kept going on strike when they felt the system was treating them badly. (Remember the unhappy workers before World War I?)



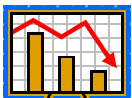
Communists said the modern world system had to change. Government planning, communal ownership, and a classless society should replace free markets and close the divide between rich owners and poor workers.

In fact, the Soviet Union under the Bolsheviks remained authoritarian and repressive.

Even so, while most of the capitalist world struggled in the 1930s, the Soviet Union's industrial economy grew rapidly.



**Soviet GNP growth per year
1928-37**





How did the Depression and the challenge of Communism add to the crisis in the modern world?

By the mid-1930s, there was a three-way struggle for control of modern world's future.



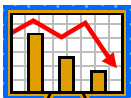
Stalin

Along with Communism's challenge to liberal capitalism, a new challenger appeared: Fascism.



Hitler

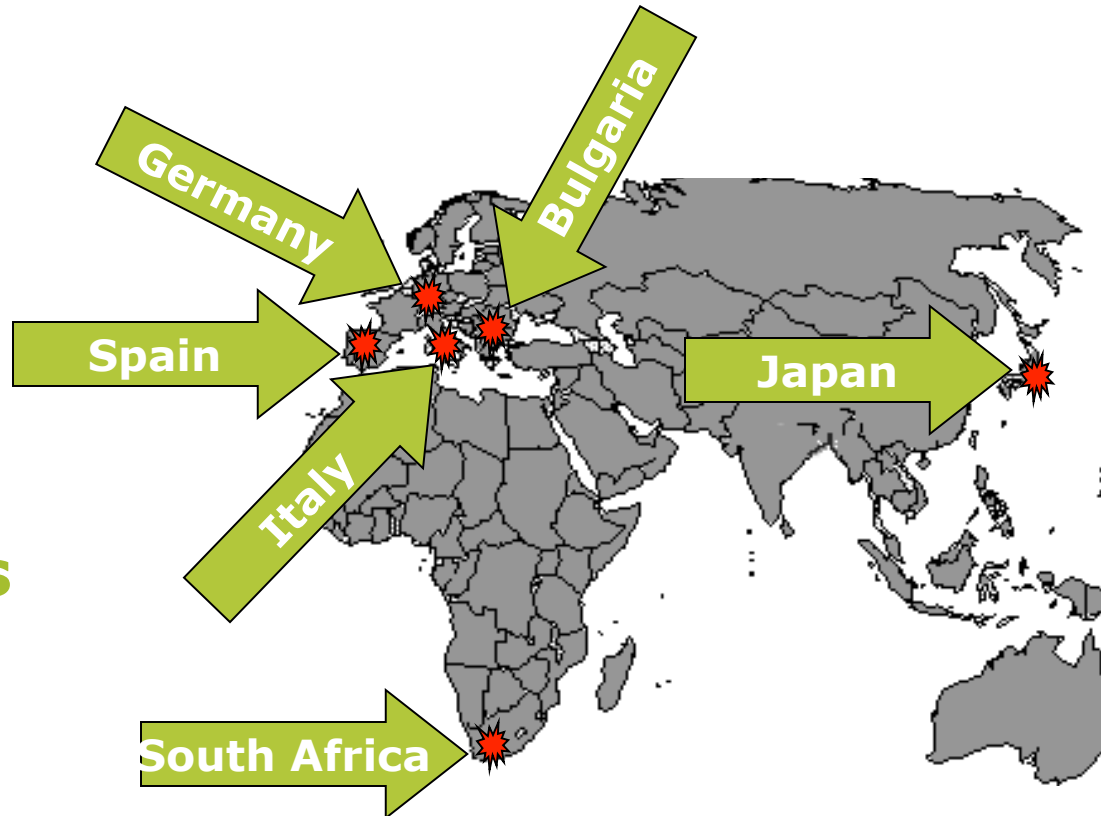
Mussolini



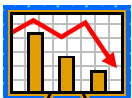
Fascist leaders used nationalism and state control of industries and cultural life to unite people of all classes.

These leaders blamed national troubles on foreigners and communists.

Some fascist-run countries recovered quickly from the Depression, partly by expanding their military economies.

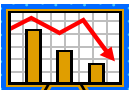


**Major countries
with Fascist-
style governments
by the 1940s**



Leaders of capitalist democracies believed that they could meet the challenges of Communism and Fascism...

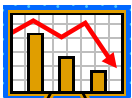
- by defending democratic values.**
- by modernizing capitalism through economic and social reform.**



Regardless of these beliefs, democracies used overseas colonies to help prop up the home economies during the Depression.



Hawaii pineapple plantation



As they recovered from the Depression, both Germany and Japan became increasingly aggressive. When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Britain and France went to war against Germany. World War II was underway.

At first, Fascist Germany and Communist Russia had a tense alliance. But when Hitler invaded Russia in June 1941, Stalin allied Russia with Britain and the United States.

The US entered the war after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

**Japanese
Bombing
of Pearl
Harbor**



World War II Alliances



Mussolini and Hitler

Axis Powers: Italy, Germany, and Japan were fascist, anti-communist, and anti-liberal democracy.



Stalin, Roosevelt, & Churchill

Allies: The US and Britain were liberal democracies. The USSR was Communist. But all three were anti-fascist.





World War II involved men and women fighting and serving all over the world.



Areas of Fighting

Even more than in World War I, men and women around the world fought in or supported the battles of World War II.

West African



Canadian



Indian



New weapons and tactics of war made World War II even more destructive and deadly than World War I.



German plane wreckage in North Africa



Both sides in the war targeted civilians.

Tokyo,
Japan



Dresden,
Germany



London,
England



**The deadliest war in
history (over 50
million killed)...**

**ended with the use
of the deadliest
weapon in history.**



**What global changes resulted
from World War II?**



**New powers and political groups
competed to reshape the world.**

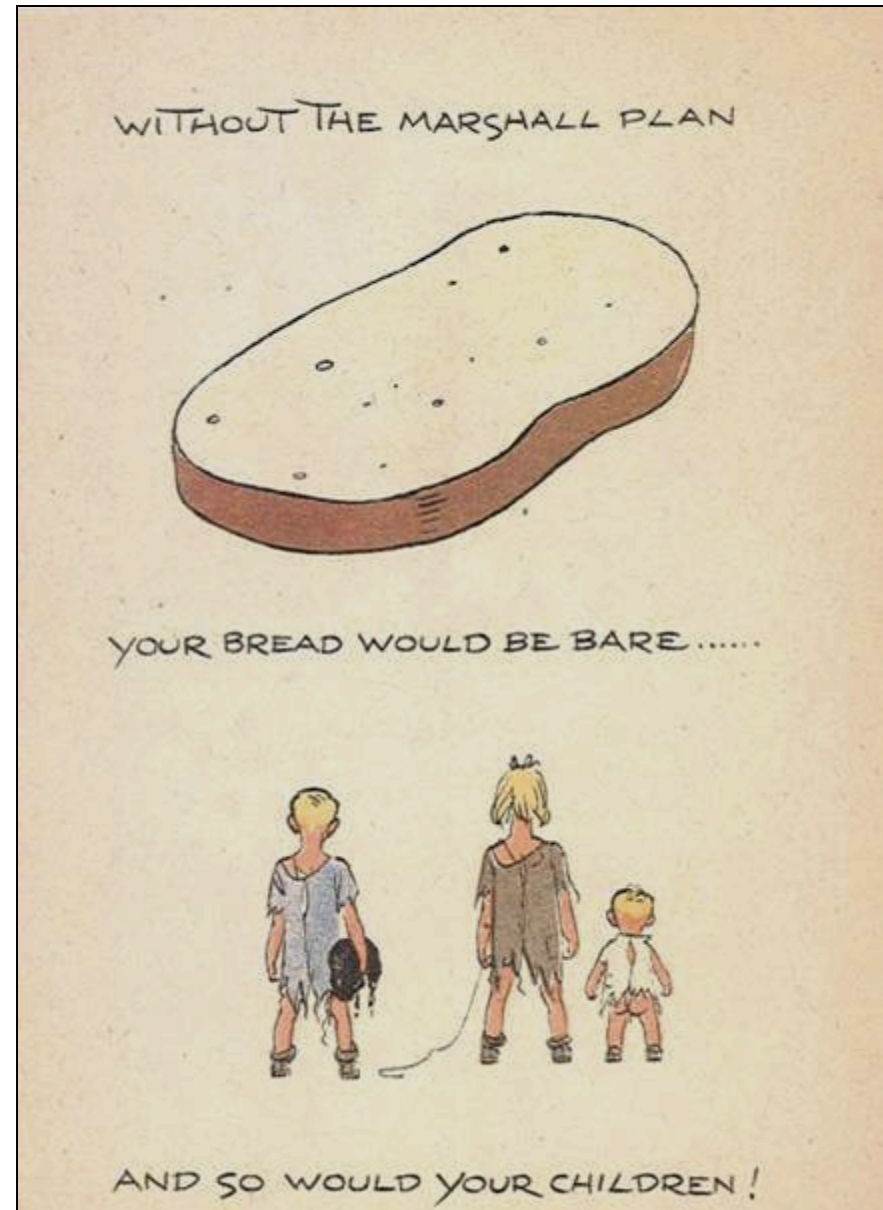
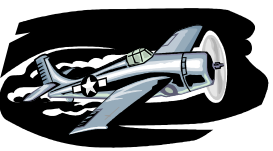
The United States took over as the world's leading military and economic power and supporter of reformed capitalism and liberal democracy

A poster encouraging Americans to buy war bonds to support the war effort



**A devastated
Western Europe
depended on US
aid for rebuilding.**

**This American
effort was called
the Marshall Plan.**



Dutch cartoon, late 1940s

The USSR also emerged from the war stronger than ever.

- It rebuilt its economy without Western aid.
- It created an empire in Eastern Europe.
- It worked to spread Communist ideas and revolutions.
- It became the USA's main rival for power in the modern world.

Red Army Soldiers



Japan lost its empire, swore off militarism, and rebuilt with American aid.

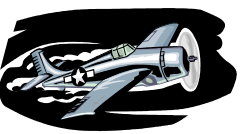
China became the second major communist country after its revolution in 1949.



American Ships Sail to Japan for Occupation, 1945



Mao Zedong, Leader of the Communist Revolution in China



**Colonies sought
independence
from their former
European rulers.**



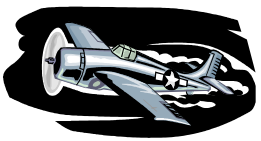
**Ho Chi Minh
in Vietnam**



**Nehru and Gandhi
in India**

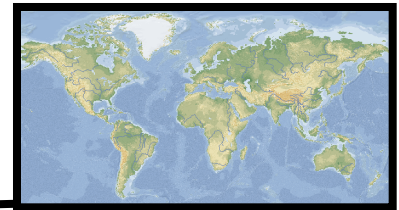


**Nehru with Kwame
Nkrumah of the Gold
Coast/Ghana**



European countries recovered from the war and went on to new prosperity.

But Europe no longer dominated the world as it had at the start of the century.



What happened?

That's more like it.



**What will Big Era
Nine bring for the
modern world
system?**

**Stay
tuned!**

- **More world-wide integration (now called globalization).**
- **More conflict too! Will capitalism triumph over Communism? The USA over the USSR? Will new groups push their way into the competition for power? How will the environment change?**